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Office of Program Resources Management

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Wednesday, April 24, 2008

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE

(Education)

US education initiatives not linked to VFA

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INQUIRER for Nash Maulana's March 30 news article titled "Mindanao: US-led English program helps Mindanao folk," that highlighted the "Tudlo Mindanao" and Education Quality and Access to Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) programs sponsored by the US Peace Corps and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Together, the two programs have trained more than 1,000 teachers in 700 Mindanao schools to provide higher-quality instruction of English, math and science—benefiting more than 50,000 students.

I wish to clarify that the "Tudlo Mindanao" teacher-training program and the US Peace Corps are unrelated to the visiting forces of the Joint Philippine-US Military Exercises. By design, the US Peace Corps program is independent of US foreign or security policy and has no affiliation whatsoever with the US military.

Again, we thank the INQUIRER for highlighting US English-teaching initiatives in Mindanao and for this opportunity to clarify the role of the US Peace Corps.

—REBECCA B. THOMPSON,
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(Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, 4/24/08)